

Minutes of the York Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Associations

27th March 2024

Attendees

David Cowley, Taxi Licensing Manager, City of York Council (DC) – Chair
Lesley Cooke, Licensing Manager, City of York Council (LC)

Martin Bisby, Licensing Officer, City of York Council (MB)
Robbie Hughes-Holbrook Licensing Enforcement Officer, City of York Council (RHH)
Steve Cammiage, Station Taxis (SK)
Neil Rowley, York Private Hire Association (NR)
Alan Brewer, ITA (AB)
Daniel Smith, ITA (DS)
Sase Dimitrievski York Taxi Association (SD)
Shafqat Ali York City Taxis Association (AM)
Arshad Mahmood York City Taxis Association (AM)
Ivor Borisov York Taxi Association (IB)

Via Teams, Brendon Murphy (BM), Amy Hoskin (AH) Mia Campbell (MC)

		Action Log
1	Presentation from Station Gateway Project Team	
1.1	(DC) opened the meeting welcoming the trade and logged on to the Teams meeting with the Gateway Project. (BM) introduced himself and the project overview, team members introduced themselves. BM presented the overview of road closures, and the various phases and packages, All closures to be advertised in the press. Question and Answer session with project team (DC) thanked the project team for their input.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting	
2.1	The associations agreed the minutes of the previous meeting to be a true and accurate record.	
3.	Taxi and Private Hire Trade Forum Agreement	
3.1	(DC) A taxi forum agreement was passed to the associations, nothing returned except York Private Hire Association commented, please return your copies after looking at the policy.	

3.2	(DC) If there are changes in committees, please return names and positions. Adding to the new policy will be what is expected of trade and driver committees.	All Association
3.3	(S), how many members are needed to form an association.	
3.4	(DC) 30 members as an agreed number and must be representative. (DC) 14th April for new information reference committees.	
4.	Taxi Licensing Policy	
4.1	(DC) Taxi policy is ready to go for consultation, this will be mid-April.	
4.2	(DC)We are looking at consultation for tinted windows, there will be a full 12 weeks for consultation. DBS checks / need to sign up to the update service, school and taxi certificates are different, you can add up to 5 certificates on one subscription.	
5.	Enforcement Update	
5.1	Enforcement update from Robbie Hughes-Holbrook	
5.2	(NR) asked for any updates regards reporting complaints	
5.3	(DC) moving forward we will give as much information as possible, we cannot name individuals but will give the statistics on operations etc.	
5.4	(RHH) vehicle check breakdown,	
5.5	(SD) asked how many have failed,	
5.6	(RHH) explained he would have this information but not to hand.	
5.7	(DC) explained the combined authority powers in relation to vehicles and drivers, we are working to have North Yorkshire and Wolverhampton delegated power of authority.	
5.8	(DC) CYC are looking and authorisation powers for Enforcement Officers with other adjoining authorities.	
5.9	(DS) clarifying parking up of PHV 's on St Saviour rank awaiting students.	
5.10	(DC) the cases have now moved forward the onus is on drivers to park legally, (general discussion of parking incidents)	
5.11	(RHH) provides an overview to operations, 11 operations between October 2023 and March 2024, these were roadside, combined operations, British Transport Police, Hackney Carriage inspections, school checks and base checks.	

5.12	(RHH)explains when sending in complaints please supply as much detail as possible, recently we have received no other information other than a video / photograph. (RHH)Report vehicles to home authority on condition breaches, or plying for hire to CYC, we will also monitor the situation.	
5.13	(RHH) There is an increase on moving traffic offences, should be to report it direct to Op snap via North Yorkshire Police.	
5.14	(RHH) Positive results from two operations last year resulted in officers undertaking plying for hire activities with one driver has been prosecuted and another still ongoing through the courts.	
5.15	(AM) noted reports never mention if Uber.	
5.17	(DC) the vehicles could work for any operator and may not have been Uber.	
5.18	(DS) mentioned reports all say Taxis resulting in all CYC taxis getting the blame for all the incidents.	
5.19	(LC) puts this down to the press reporting and nothing to do with CYC as we use the distinction between HC / PH.	
5.20	General discussion of incidents.	
5.21	(RHH) issues surrounding St Saviour rank a combined operation with NYP will take place, Enforcement Officers are aware of it.	
5.22	(DS) asked about alcohol restriction notice for St Saviour rank.	
5.23	(LC) Clarifies alcohol restriction notice sign for the entire area, it only needs a sign on entry to the zone, police can only deal with antisocial behaviour.	
5.24	General discussion references the number of incidents outside the CO-OP shop.	
5.25	(DC) explained that the photo's CYC had been sent of incidents on St Saviour gate had been passed on to NYP. He also passed on the concerns, advised to submit videos to 101, this will help the statistics to form information of problem areas.	
5.26	(RHH) please keep reporting incidents as this creates the hot spot for NYP action meetings. General discussion of incidents.	
5.27	(RHH) going forward enforcement focusing on unlawful plying for hire, wheelchair and refusal of guide dogs and assistance dogs. Over the past 6 months there has been a big increase of offences, the next 6 months we will concentrate on these offences.	

5.28	(AS) asked officers to please check boot space for wheelchair, a lot of drivers don't have room for items already there.	
5.29	(DC) explained that future checks will include this.	
5.30	(DS) referenced an incident 9 or 10 years ago with 3 people and 2 dogs refused on grounds of only licensed for 4 people.	
5.31	(AH) asked what times are governed for operations. (day / night)	
5.32	(DC) all subject to availability of partner agencies and they are not targeted at CYC licensed vehicles, enforcement officers are looking solely at vehicle defects. Enforcement Officers give out works mobile number to enable any suitable immediate uplift of a suspension notice.	
5.33	(AB) quoted a special just picking cars off the rank to go to Hazel Court for an inspection.	
5.34	(DC) aware of this where NYP officers have identified defects and bring vehicles for inspections, all inspections are random.	
5.35	(RHH) confirmed DC's explanation DC said that NYP Pro-active team are predominately used in combined operations.	
5.36	(SD) why are Friday and Saturday nights selected, why not Monday or Tuesday.	
5.37	(DC) as explained other partner availability and risk factors with out-of-town vehicles.	
6.	The Groves	
6.1	(NR) The Groves, the council have the power to remove restriction, they have said they will remove restrictions.	
6.2	(DC) this is down to highways; any concerns need to be emailed to Exec member for transport. General discussion of duelling the ring road.	
7.	Taxi Ranks (signage)	
7.1	(AB) parking on the ranks is getting worse, price of parking fine is only slightly higher than a car park.	
7.2	(DC) parking services are recruiting, HCPHS has the power to issue tickets, however we cannot search any data bases. CPO allow 5 minutes before issuing a ticket due to the number of complaints.	
7.3	(DS) parking on Duncombe Place is becoming worse.	
7.4	(SD) it needs signs to show where ranks are, people don't know where the ranks are.	
7.5	(DC) sites are being added to the city maps when they are due for renewal.	
7.6	(AH) Minster rank needed a head of rank sign.	

7.7	(DC) the ranks were being looked at.	
7.8	(LC) had completed a walk about and agreed some of the signage, spaces, breaks in the rank and head of ranks needed to be changed, she is still waiting for highways to respond.	
7.9	(DS) had parked on the rank this morning, there were no signs not even the blue sign.	
7.10	(DC) said he was willing to go out with the association to identify the ranks.	
7.11	(SC) asked for a specific rank at a location.	
7.12	(LC) advised that highways wouldn't grant.	
7.13	(SA) asked about street furniture (seats).	
7.14	(LC) advised that the council would not take them away.	
7.15	(AH) suggested that QR codes could be used to indicate that people were waiting at a particular rank.	
7.16	(DC) suggested that it would need all the members to be working on the digital application for it to be successful.	
7.17	(AB) parking and rank abuse at Duncombe place, any vehicle should be towed away without further notice.	
7.18	(DC) only the police have that power.	
8.	Plying for Hire	
8.1	(AM) mentioned vehicles parked up in certain locations?	
8.2	(DC) we have to be careful how we investigate, it depends on how the driver is offering his services and best evidence.	
8.3	(LC) again we ask you to give as much information as possible.	
8.4	General discussion on plying for hire, bus stops being used as ranks, highways do look at a lot of different circumstances.	
9.	Station Development	
9.1	(AM) stated the need for a Hub for the information, LNER, CMAC, CYC have meetings, CMAC will email every permit holder before events happen in the development, please include the chair of the association.	
9.2		
9.3	(DC) CYC is in contact with other agencies and information will be disseminated as we get it.	
10.	Garage / Vehicles	
10.1	(NR) questioned about observing MoT's (inspections)	
10.2	(DC) drivers can observe the test if driver requires to do so ask for this with the technician.	
10.3	(DC) Screens and a camera are due to be installed at reception viewing area.	
10.4	(SD) left the meeting.	

10.5	(DC) new HCV plates, 5 vehicles are now licensed, 2 more offered and finalising their purchase and 3 more looking at purchasing vehicles. More owners added to the list as refusals are notified.	
10.6	(AB) question over, MoT test standard, CYC test is above standard.	
10.7	(DC) presents new inspection form that will be used by the vehicle inspectors, Form based on MOT VT29 used by DVSA and is mirrored in the new form with the VT29 requirements in bold type and non-bold type are condition requirements set by policy.	
10.8	(AB) asked about general mechanical standard.	
10.9	(DC) Mot standards and imminent failure for mechanical standards S68 notice will be issued if dangerous or not fit for use. Owners not happy about with the inspection result we will look at vehicle as second opinion by Fleet manager or DC.	
10.10	(DC) explained that the vehicle examiners have MoT qualifications, failures have 10 working days, visual inspections are free, if ramp time is required that will be chargeable.	
10.11	(AM) can dates be reserved for vehicle tests if documents are produced.	
10.12	(DC) explained this was not possible as annual tests are pre-booked and new tests are added as required, if a cancelation is made then this creates gaps the new process will see a day reserved specifically for new vehicles.	
11.	DASH PH	
11.1	(NR) Dash was originally a Harrogate company has bought by the owner of a York PH company, its all over Yorkshire, how can customers ring Dash in York and get a vehicle.	
11.2	(DC) explained case law and right to roam, there is a central booking hub and provided the trinity is correct they have a right to roam and a right to advertise.	
12.	AOB (Additional Questions)	
	State of the Roads	
12.1	(NR) might have to email a councillor; the streets are in a terrible condition.	
	Rapid Chargers – HCV only	
12.2	(DS) why put age restrictions on cars.	
12.3	(DC) age restrictions in relation to petrol and diesel Euro 6 vehicles, in 2030 all vehicles sold will be electric or hybrid.	
12.4	(DS) new vehicles are affordable, there isn't enough work to justify the costs.	

12.4	(DC) euro 6 meets clean air zone criteria, 16 /17-year-old vehicles are not being looked after, other councils have gone to increase petrol and diesel life as licensed. New clean air policy coming out and going to consultation.	
12.5	(AB) manufacturers Euro 5 could be Euro 6 if made before a certain date.	
12.6	Discussion followed about various vehicles. Unmet Demand Survey	
12.7	(AB) regarding the unmet demand survey, he wasn't happy about the way questions were worded.	
12.8	(DC) advised we would look at the survey questions. UBER / Harrogate	
12.9	Discussion followed about the racecourse, Uber / Harrogate restrictions.	
12.10	(DC) licensing officers do attend most race meetings. Grants	
12.11	(AM) raised a question about the grants available which are due to end March 2023.	
12.12	(DC) there are still available from Government for new vehicles, CYC haven't any left. PCC funding will change on the election of a new mayor in May. Licensed Drivers	
12.13	(AM) licenced drivers are being bullied, a complaint against a driver not in the association and using social media.	
12.14	(DC) the professionalism must come from the association by way of administration teams to control social media platforms.	
12.15	(LC) social media user groups should be registered with the Information Commissioners Office.	
12.16	General discussion of social media groups.	
12.17	Meeting Closed.	